

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date: August 21, 2006**  
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## **Washington State Patrol Provides an Essential Service for School Bus Safety**

School bus inspectors of the Washington State Patrol Commercial Vehicle Division (CVD) provide a vital role in the safe transportation of our school students traveling in school owned vehicles, to and from school and school related activities. Washington's model inspection program conducts safety inspections on any school vehicle that may transport a student.

All 9,500 school buses and 1,500 support vehicles in Washington State are inspected annually during a scheduled summer inspection. In the winter months, inspectors show up unannounced and inspect, at random, 25% of the school district's fleet. If a district's winter inspection does not fair well, they may be subject to a complete fleet inspection.

An inspection consists of looking at mechanical components such as brakes, steering, and lights. An interior inspection looks for such things as broken seats, emergency exit defects and required safety equipment. The inspection process is completed with a physical braking test, utilizing an electronic tester, that determines the braking efficiency of the overall brake system. If a bus or vehicle is placed out of service, for a safety discrepancy, it can not be utilized until the violation is repaired and re-inspected.

WSP continues to partner with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction in finding ways to bring down the number of school bus collisions. Through June 2006, there have been 133 collisions involving school buses. None have been attributed to defective school bus equipment.

Washington State is recognized as being a leader in school bus safety. Our inspection process and safety criteria are requested nationwide by other states initiating their own inspection program.

"School bus inspections are a vital and ongoing service we provide to promote the safe transportation of our school children," said Captain Coral Estes, commander of the Commercial Vehicle Division.

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**Photo Opportunity:** The WSP school bus inspectors will be conducting inspections at the Everett Durham garage, at 2911 California Avenue, Everett WA 98201, on Tuesday, August 22.



If you are interested in taking pictures, video or would like an interview, please contact CVEO 3 Rich Griebel (206) 949-3661 to schedule it.